



# Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

for Streets and Highways

2003 EDITION



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

SCHOOL

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is approved by the Federal Highway Administrator as the National Standard in accordance with Title 23 U.S. Code, Sections 109(d), 114(a), 217, 315, and 402(a), 23 CFR 655, and 49 CFR 1.48(b)(8), 1.48(b)(33), and 1.48(c)(2).

Addresses for Publications Referenced in the MUTCD

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)  
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 249  
Washington, DC 20001  
[www.transportation.org](http://www.transportation.org)

American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA)  
8201 Corporate Drive, Suite 1125  
Landover, MD 20785-2230  
[www.arena.org](http://www.arena.org)

Federal Highway Administration Report Center  
Facsimile number: 301.577.1421  
[report.center@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:report.center@fhwa.dot.gov)

Illuminating Engineering Society (IES)  
120 Wall Street, Floor 17  
New York, NY 10005  
[www.iesna.org](http://www.iesna.org)

Institute of Makers of Explosives  
1120 19th Street, NW, Suite 310  
Washington, DC 20036-3605  
[www.ime.org](http://www.ime.org)

Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)  
1099 14th Street, NW, Suite 300 West  
Washington, DC 20005-3438  
[www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org)

International Organization for Standards  
c/o Mr. Gerard Kuso  
Austrian Standards Institute  
Heinestrasse 38  
Postfach 130  
A-1021  
Wien, Austria  
[www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)

ISEA - The Safety Equipment Association  
1901 North Moore Street, Suite 808  
Arlington, VA 22209  
[www.safetysystem.org](http://www.safetysystem.org)

National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances (NCUTLO)  
107 South West Street, Suite 110  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
[www.ncutlo.org](http://www.ncutlo.org)

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20210  
[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

Transportation Research Board (TRB)  
The National Academies  
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20418  
[www.nas.edu/trb](http://www.nas.edu/trb)

U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (The U.S. Access Board)  
1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20004-1111  
[www.access-board.gov](http://www.access-board.gov)

### Acknowledgments

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## CHAPTER 7E. CROSSING SUPERVISION

### Section 7E.01 Types of Crossing Supervision

Support:

There are two types of school crossing supervision:

- A. Adult control of pedestrians and vehicles by adult crossing guards or uniformed law enforcement officers; and
- B. Student control of only pedestrians with student patrols.

Information for the organization, operation, and administration of an adult crossing guard program are given in “Civilian Guards For School Crossings” (available from the Center for Public Safety of Northwestern University, 405 Church Street, Evanston, IL 60204) and “Adult School Crossing Guards” (available from the American Automobile Association, 1000 AAA Drive, Heathrow, FL 32746).

Information for the organization, administration and operation of a student patrol program are given in “Policies and Practices for School Safety Patrols” (available from the American Automobile Association, 1000 AAA Drive, Heathrow, FL 32746).

### Section 7E.02 Adult Crossing Guards

Option:

Adult crossing guards may be used to provide gaps in traffic at school crossings where an engineering study has shown that adequate gaps need to be created (see Section 7A.03), and where authorized by law.

### Section 7E.03 Qualifications of Adult Crossing Guards

Support:

High standards for selection of adult crossing guards are essential.

Guidance:

Adult crossing guards should possess the following qualifications:

- A. Average intelligence;
- B. Good physical condition, including sight, hearing, and mobility;
- C. Mental alertness;
- D. Neat appearance;
- E. Good character;
- F. Dependability; and
- G. Sense of responsibility for safety of students.

### Section 7E.04 Uniform of Adult Crossing Guards and Student Patrols

Guidance:

Adult crossing guards should be uniformed so that road users and pedestrians can recognize them and respond to their signals. The uniforms should be distinctively different from those worn by regular law enforcement officers.

**Standard:**

**Adult crossing guards shall wear high-visibility retroreflective safety apparel labeled as ANSI 107-1999 standard performance for Class 2 as described in Section 6E.02.**

**Student patrols shall wear high-visibility retroreflective safety apparel labeled as ANSI 107-1999 standard performance for Class 1 as described in Section 6E.02.**

Guidance:

Law enforcement officers should wear high-visibility retroreflective material over their uniforms when directing nighttime operations.

### Section 7E.05 Operating Procedures for Adult Crossing Guards

Guidance:

Adult crossing guards should not direct traffic in the usual law enforcement regulatory sense. In the control of traffic, they should pick opportune times to create a reasonably safe gap. At these times, they should stand in the roadway to indicate that pedestrians are about to use or are using the crosswalk, and that all vehicular traffic must stop.

Adult crossing guards should use a STOP paddle. The STOP paddle should be the primary hand-signaling device.

**Standard:**

**The STOP paddle shall be an octagonal shape. The background of the STOP face shall be red with at least 150 mm (6 in) series capital white letters and border. The paddle shall be at least 450 mm (18 in) in size and have the word message STOP on both sides. The paddle shall be retroreflectorized or illuminated when used during hours of darkness.**

**Option:**

The STOP paddle may be modified to improve conspicuity by incorporating red or white flashing lights on both sides of the paddle. The red or white flashing lights may be arranged in any of the following patterns:

- A. Two red or white lights centered vertically above and below the STOP legend;
- B. Two red or white lights centered horizontally on each side of the STOP legend;
- C. One red or white light centered below the STOP legend; or
- D. A series of eight or more small red or white lights no larger than 6 mm (0.25 in) in diameter along the outer edge of the paddle, arranged in an octagonal pattern at the eight corners of the STOP paddle. More than eight lights may be used only if the arrangement of the lights is such that it clearly conveys the octagonal shape of the STOP paddle.
- E. A series of white lights forming the shapes of the letters in the legend.

**Standard:**

**If flashing lights are used on the STOP paddle, the flash rate shall be at least 50, but not more than 60, flash periods per minute.**

**Section 7E.06 Uniformed Law Enforcement Officers****Option:**

Uniformed law enforcement officers may be used for school crossing supervision.

**Section 7E.07 Student Patrols****Option:**

Students patrols may be used to direct and control pedestrians at crossings near schools where adequate gaps in traffic occur frequently enough so that gaps do not need to be created.

Student patrols may be used to direct and control pedestrians at signalized intersections where turning movements are not a significant problem, and may be used to assist adult crossing guards in the control of pedestrians at crossing locations used by large numbers of pedestrians.

**Guidance:**

Student patrols should not be responsible for directing vehicular traffic. They should not function as uniformed law enforcement officers or adult crossing guards.

**Section 7E.08 Choice of Student Patrols****Guidance:**

Student patrols should be carefully selected. They should be students from the fifth grade or higher. Leadership and reliability should be determining qualities for patrol membership.

Parental approval should be obtained in writing before a student is used as a member of a student patrol.

**Section 7E.09 Operating Procedures for Student Patrols****Guidance:**

Student patrols should use a flagging device to stop pedestrians behind the curb or edge of the roadway, and should allow them to cross only when there is an adequate gap in traffic.

**Standard:**

**Flagging devices used during periods of twilight or darkness shall be retroreflective or illuminated.**

**Because they are not authorized to direct vehicular traffic, student patrols shall not use a STOP paddle.**